

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. I

May, 1896

No. 1

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Library Bureau

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Prospectus

The many letters of inquiry concerning small details and elementary principles of the work, which the larger libraries receive from the smaller ones in every part of the country, have brought to the notice of those interested in the advancement of libraries, the need for a publication which shall give special attention to the more common details and trials of the small and new public libraries. The idea seemed to be spontaneous in many quarters that a magazine of this kind, at a price within the means of all, would be of great assistance to a large number of earnest inquirers among our fellow-workers.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES is started to meet this need. It will deal with all phases of library work in a concise, simple way, such as will give the best aid to those who need it. There will be also a large variety of items of news, such as will encourage and inspire small libraries, as well as large, to put forth their best efforts to accomplish something of value to the library world.

There will be brief accounts of all matters relating to the American Li-

brary Association, state associations, and library clubs. This magazine will try to form a close, sympathetic connection with all these associations, assisting them as far as possible in carrying out their plans and purposes.

There will be notices of the movements and success of fellow-librarians, that the library world may know what the progressive members are doing, and the localities receiving the benefit therefrom. Assistant librarians, and all having any part whatever in library work, are to be considered, especially those far removed from the centers of progressive library science.

Keeping in mind the natural connection between schools and libraries, there will be something of interest in every number for principals and teachers of public schools. School libraries will receive special attention, as well as university and college libraries, and it is hoped that trustees will avail themselves of the opportunity to present their views or question any plans suggested.

The hearty coöperation of many of the most practical librarians in the

country has been promised, and the readers of this magazine may expect the best material available, the result of years of experience in planning and providing for library needs.

The committee of the American Library Association, having in charge the preparation of the Library Primer, have arranged to present the first draft (under revision) in the opening numbers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, so that all interested may see just what is proposed in it, and thus be able to make any suggestions they may desire.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES, being brief in its leading articles, concise in its information, and newsy in all respects, and co-operating in carrying out the plans of the American Library Association and various state associations, will be of value and interest to the entire library field. The very low price, \$1 a year, brings it within the reach of all, and an effort will be made to attain and keep a place worthy of support and confidence. We ask the sympathetic interest of our fellow-workers.

Each volume of PUBLIC LIBRARIES will contain ten numbers and over 300 pages. It will be sent postpaid for \$1 per year, or five copies to one library staff for \$4, single number 20 cents. A limited amount of advertising, interesting to librarians and literary workers, will be accepted, at uniform rates, according to number of insertions and location in magazine.

Library Primer

The first draft of the Library Primer, of which the first section appears in this number of the PUBLIC LIBRARIES, was written by J. C. Dana, and was made up chiefly of extracts from Dr Poole's article on public libraries published in 1876, Miss M. W. Plummer's Hints to small libraries, the Handbook of the Denver public library, and other books and journals which will be mentioned in appendix.

It is, as noted, under revision. Separate parts will be submitted to different members of the association for their special criticism, and the whole is open to additions, corrections and revision by each member of the American Library Association. The matter for the appendices is being prepared by the different library schools and classes, and will be subject to the same revision as the text of the book. All contributors and revisers will be given credit for their work, and the whole published by the Publishing Section in book form. The completed work is intended to be an outline of the elements of library work, by the American Library Association. It is an outline only. Its brevity compels it to seem dogmatic in tone. Its positive statements should be taken simply as the shortest way of making suggestions. It is a group of hints, and not a code of laws.

The book, when it appears in final form, will be illustrated with zinc etchings of approved library blanks, tools, and appliances.

The Primer will probably be completed in three issues of the PUBLIC LIBRARIES, certainly in four. Do not wait till the work is finished before making suggestions, but immediately upon the appearance of the section, revise and send your criticisms to the secretary of the association, H. L. Elmdorf, St Joseph, Mo.

A. L. A. Library Primer

(Under revision)

Page 1—Title.

Page 2—List of officers of the American Library Association, with a note telling what the American Library Association is, and what it tries to do.

Page 3—Preface.

Page 4—Table of contents.

Chapter 1. The beginning—Library law

If the establishment of a free public library in your town is under consideration, the first question is probably this: Is there a statute which authorizes a tax for the support of a public library? The State library commission, if you have one (See appendix), will tell you if your state gives aid to local public libraries. It will also tell you about your library law. If you have no library commission, consult a lawyer and get from him a careful statement of what can be done under present statutory regulations. If your state has no library law (see appendix), or none which seems appropriate in your community, it may be necessary to suspend all work, save the fostering of a sentiment favorable to a library, until a good law is secured. The best examples of library legislation are found in the statutes of ———. (See also appendix.) These can be improved upon. In drafting a law consult experienced librarians, as well as lawyers.

Chapter 2. Missionary work—What does the free public library do for a community?

Learn about the beginnings of libraries by writing to people and institutions who have had experience. (See appendix.) Write to the new libraries in other towns and villages of your state.

Often it is not well to make great plans and invoke state aid at the very outset. Make a beginning, even though it be small, is a good, general rule. This will give a center for further effort, and will furnish practical illustrations for the arguments one may wish to use.

Each community has different needs and begins its library under different

conditions. Consider then, whether you need most a library devoted chiefly to the work of helping the schools, one to be used mainly for reference, one that shall run largely to periodicals and be not much more than a reading room, one particularly attractive to girls and women, or one that shall not be much more than a cheerful resting-place, attractive enough to draw man and boy from street-corner and saloon. Decide this question early, that all effort may be concentrated to one end, and that your young institution may suit the community in which it is to grow, and from which it is to gain its strength.

Having decided to have a library, keep the movement well before the public. The necessity of the library, its great value to the community, should be urged by the local press, from the platform, and in personal talk. Include in your canvass all citizens, irrespective of creed, business, or politics; whether educated or illiterate. Enlist the support of teachers, and through them interest children and parents. Literary, art, social, and scientific societies, Chautauqua circles, local and debating clubs, should be champions of the movement.

And what good does a public library do? First, it supplies the public with recreative reading. To the masses of the people—hard-worked and living humdrum lives—the novel comes as an open door to an ideal life, in the enjoyment of which one may forget, for a time, the hardships or the tedium of the real. One of the truest functions of the public library is to raise this recreative reading of the community to higher and higher levels; to replace trash with literature of a better order.

A proper and worthy aim of the public library is the supplying of books on every profession, art, or handicraft, that workers in every department who care to study may perfect themselves in their work.

The public library helps in social and political education, in the training of citizens. It is, of course, well supplied with books and periodicals which give the thought of the best writers on

the economic and social questions now under earnest discussion. These books will be eagerly read.

The highest and best influence of the library may be summed up in the single word, culture. No other word so well describes the influence of the diffusion of good reading among the people in giving tone and character to their intellectual life.

The free reading room connected with most of our public libraries is a powerful agent for counteracting the attractions of saloons and low resorts. Specially useful are they to those boys and young men who have a dormant fondness for reading and culture, but lack home and school opportunities.

The public library, then, is a means for elevating and refining the taste, for giving greater efficiency to every worker, for diffusing sound principles of social and political action, for furnishing intellectual culture to all, and is a powerful co-worker with the church in endeavoring to lead men to a higher life.

The library of the future for the American people is unquestionably the free public library, brought under municipal ownership, and, to some extent, municipal control, and treated as part of the educational system of the state. The sense of ownership in it makes the average man accept and use the opportunities of the free public library, while he will turn aside from book privileges in any other guise.

That the public library is a part of the educational system should never be lost sight of in missionary work, or in the management of its manifold possible beginnings. To the great mass of the people it comes as their first and only educational opportunity. The largest part of every man's education is that which he gives himself. It is for this individual, self-administered education that the public library furnishes the opportunity and the means. The schools start education in childhood; libraries must carry it on. The new library is the ever-ready helper of the school-teacher. It aids the work of reading circles and other home-cul-

ture organizations, by furnishing books required and giving hints as to their value and use. It adds to the usefulness of courses of lectures by furnishing, in advance, lists of books on the subjects to be treated. It allies itself with university extension work; in fact, the extension lecture given in connection with the free use of a good library seems to be the ideal university of the people.

Chapter 3. Trustees, etc.

Trustees are perhaps appointed by the mayor, perhaps elected, perhaps chosen by the good citizen who gives a library to the town; but in whatever way they reach office, friends of the new library movement can usually have some voice in their selection. They should be chosen, part of them at least, as much for their well-known executive ability, business sense, unquestioned integrity, or political power, as for their literary knowledge. The library will constantly be thrown into relations with the community which will bring each one of these, and other, practical qualities into actual use. They should possess also that tolerant temper which allows a man or woman to work harmoniously and effectively with others.

As to their duties, business-like management is the whole story. A public library for public use should be managed not only as a literary institution, but also as a business concern.

Efficiency of employes can best be obtained through application of the cardinal principles of an enlightened civil service, *viz.* absolute exclusion of all political and personal influence, appointment for definitely ascertained fitness, promotion for merit, and retention during good behavior.

In general, let trustees remember that the public owns its public library, and that no useless lumber is more useless than unused books. People will use a library, not because, in others' opinions, they ought to, but because they like to. See to it, then, one may say to the trustees, that the new library is such as its owner, the public, likes; and the

only test of this liking is use. Open wide the doors. Let regulations be few and never obtrusive. Trust American genius for self-control. Remember the deference for the rights of others with which you and your fellows conduct yourselves in your own parlors, at public tables, at general gatherings. Give the people at least such liberty with their own collection of books as the bookseller gives them with his. Let the shelves be open, and the public admitted to them, and let the open shelves strike the keynote of the whole administration. The whole library should be permeated with a cheerful and accommodating atmosphere. Lay this down as the first rule of library management; and for the second, let it be said that librarian and assistants are to treat boy and girl, man and woman, ignorant and learned, courteous and rude, with uniform good-temper, without condescension, never pertly.

Finally, let the trustee bear in mind these two doctrines, tempering the one with the other: 1) that the public library is a great educational and moral power, to be wielded with a full sense of its great responsibilities, and of the corresponding danger of their neglect or perversion. 2) that the public library is not a business office. It is a center of public happiness first, of public education next.

Chapter 4. The librarian

If circumstances permit, the librarian should be engaged even before the general character of the library and plan of administration have been determined upon. If properly selected, he or she will be a person of experience in these matters, and will be able to give valuable advice. Politics, social considerations, church sympathies, religious prejudices, family relationship,—none of these should be allowed to enter into his selection. Secure an efficient officer, even at what may seem at first a disproportionate expense. Save money in other ways, but never by employing a forceless man or woman in the position of chief librarian.

Recent developments in the schools of library economy (See appendix), and the recent rapid growth in public libraries throughout the country, have made it possible for any new library to secure good material for a librarian. If lack of funds or other conditions make it necessary to employ some local applicant, it will be wise to insist that that person, if not already conversant with library economy, shall immediately become informed on the subject. It will not be easy, it may not be possible, for trustees to post themselves on methods for the organization and administration of a library. They can, however, with very little difficulty, so far inform themselves as to be able to judge whether the person they select for their chief officer is taking pains to acquaint himself with the literature of the subject, or trying to get in touch with the knowledge and experience of others. They should not submit for a moment to ignorance or indifference on the part of their chosen administrator. Success or failure of a library, as of a business, depends on the ability of the man or woman at its head, and only trained men and women should be in charge. The business of the librarian is a profession, and a practical knowledge of the subject is never so much needed as in starting a new enterprise.

The librarian should have culture, scholarship, and executive ability. He should keep always in advance of his community, and constantly educate it to make greater demands upon him. He should be a leader and a teacher, earnest, enthusiastic, and intelligent. He should be able to win the confidence of children, and wise to lead them by easy steps from good books to the best. He has the greatest opportunity of any teacher in the community. He should be the teacher of teachers. He should make the library a school for the young, a college for adults, and the constant center of such educational activity as will make wholesome and inspiring themes the burden of the common thought. He should be enough of a bookworm to have a decided taste and

fondness for books, and at the same time not enough to be a recluse and so lose sight of the point of view of those who know little of books.

As the responsible head of the institution, he should be consulted in all matters relating to its management. The most satisfactory results are obtained in those libraries where the chief librarian is permitted to appoint assistants, select books, buy supplies, make regulations, and decide methods of cataloging, classifying, and lending; all subject to the approval of the trustees. Trustees should impose responsibility, grant freedom, and exact results.

Chapter 5. Rooms, buildings, fixtures

The trustees will be wise if they appoint their librarian before they erect a building, or even select rooms, and leave these matters largely to him. They should not be in haste to build. As a rule it is better to start in temporary quarters and let the building fund accumulate while trustees and librarian gain experience, and the needs of the library become more definite. Plans should be made with the future enlargement of the building in view; libraries increase more rapidly than is generally supposed.

Rooms of peculiar architecture are not required for the original occupation and organization of a library. The essential requirements are a central location, easy access, ample space, and sufficient light. The space for the library and reading room should be, if possible, on the same floor. Make the exterior attractive and the entrance inviting. In arranging the rooms, or building, plan from the first, as already suggested, to permit visitors to go to the books themselves.

A collection of the printed matter on library architecture should be carefully studied by both trustees and librarian before any plans are made. (See appendix.) While no specific plan can be recommended that would suit all cases, there are a few general rules that meet with the approval of the library profession as a whole. They

may usually be summed up as follows:

A library building should be planned for library work.

Every library building should be planned specially for the kind of work to be done, and the community to be served.

The interior arrangement ought to be planned before the exterior is considered.

No convenience of arrangement should be sacrificed for mere architectural effect.

The plan should be adapted to probabilities and possibilities of growth and development.

Simplicity of decoration is essential in the working rooms and reading rooms.

A library should be planned with a view to economical administration.

The rooms for public use should be so arranged as to allow complete supervision with the fewest possible attendants.

There should be as much natural light as possible in all parts of the building.

Windows should extend up to the ceiling, to light thoroughly the upper part of every room.

Windows in a book room should be placed opposite the intervals between bookcases.

In a circulating library the books most in use should be shelved in floor cases close to the delivery desk.

In the floor cases of a reference library the upper shelves should be narrower than those below, with a ledge about three feet from the floor.

A space of at least five feet should be left between floor cases. (If the public is excluded, three feet is ample for purposes of administration.)

No shelf, in any form of bookcase, should be higher than a person of moderate height can reach without a step-ladder.

Shelving for folios and quartos should be provided in every book room.

Straight flights are preferable to circular stairs.

The form of shelving which is grow-

ing in favor is the arrangement of floor cases in large rooms with space between the tops of the bookcases and the ceiling for circulation of air and the diffusion of light.

Modern library plans provide accommodations for readers near the books they want to use whatever system of shelving is adopted.

Single shelves should not be more than three feet long, on account of the tendency to sag. Ten inches between shelves, and a depth of eight inches, are good dimensions for ordinary cases. Shelves should be made movable and easily adjustable. Many devices are now in the market for this purpose, several of which are good. (See appendix.)

A library can never do its best work until its management recognizes the duty and true economy of providing skilled assistants, comfortable quarters, and the best library equipment of fittings and supplies.

Chapter 6. Selecting books

The selection of books should be left to the librarian, under the general direction of trustees or book committee.

There should be made at the start a collection of encyclopedias, dictionaries, gazetteers, and scientific compendiums, which should be accessible in the library only as works of reference. The extent of this collection will depend on the general scope and purposes of the library. No library, however small, can dispense with some books of reference. (See appendix.)

There must be taken into consideration, in determining the character of the books to be purchased, these factors, among others:

(a) Presence or absence of other libraries in the vicinity, and their character, if present.

(b) The avowed purpose of the free, tax-supported, public library, to wit: 1) To help people to be happy; 2) to help them to become wise; 3) to encourage them to be good.

(c) The amount of money to be expended and the sum that will probably

be available for each succeeding year.

(d) The manner in which the books are to be used; whether all are to be lent, or are to be used only for reference, or are to form both a reference and a lending library.

(e) The class of people by whom they are to be used, and if children, whether they are for school work only, or for general reading, or for both.

(f) The occupations and leading local interests of the community.

(g) The character and average degree of intelligence of the community.

(h) The habits, as to reading and study, of those who will use the library.

The village library, in its early days, can well afford to begin at the level of the community's average reading. At the same time it must always try to go a little ahead of the demands of the people, and develop a taste and desire for the very best of that which it supplies. The masses of the people have very little of literary culture. It is the purpose of the public library to develop this by creating in them the habit of reading. As a rule people read books of a higher intellectual and moral standard than their own, and hence are benefited by reading. As their tastes improve, they read better books.

Then do not aim too high. Avoid trash, but do not buy literature which would not be read, simply because it is standard or classic. Remember that the public library is a popular institution in every sense of the word; that it has become possible only by the approval of the majority of the population, and that the majority of the population is confined in its turn to a majority of the people of the most commonplace kind.

Put into the people's hands books worthy of their respect, then insist that they should be handled carefully and treated always with consideration. Expensive books are generally better worth their cost than cheap ones.

In the first purchases, buy largely for children. They are the library's best pupils. They are more easily trained to enjoy good books than their elders.

Through them the homes are best reached. They will, by their free use of the library, and by their approval of it, do much to add to its popularity. The best books for children will be enjoyed by all. (See appendix.) In selecting fiction, get from the older librarians a statement of what are the most popular of the wholesome novels found on their shelves. A better guide than this will be difficult to find. Fiction is of the greatest value in developing a taste for reading. Everyone should be familiar with the great works of imagination. Nearly all the greatest literature of the world is fiction. The educational value of the novel is not often questioned.

In other departments, as in fiction and children's books, follow at first the guidance of some one of the good book lists now available. (See appendix.)

Books on zoology, geology, and botany should be by American in preference to foreign authors. In all departments select the latest editions, and, at first, the recent book rather than the older book.

The proportion of books in the different departments of knowledge must vary greatly in different libraries. The following is a good, general guide:

General works .....	.03
Philosophy .....	.02
Religion .....	.05
Sociology .....	.06
Philology .....	.01
Science .....	.08
Useful arts .....	.06
Fine arts .....	.04
Literature .....	.12
Biography .....	.10
History .....	.13
Travels .....	.10
Fiction .....	.20
Total	1.00

Local interest should be fostered by buying freely books on local history and science and by local authors. The librarian should keep informed of coming events, and see that the library is provided with the books for which there is sure to be a future demand. He should avoid personal hobbies and be impartial on all controversial questions. He should not be over-confident in his

knowledge of what will elevate and refine the community.

It is better to buy 10 extra copies of a wholesome book wanted by the public than one copy each of 10 other books which will not be read.

Do not waste time, energy, and money—certainly not in the early days of the library—in securing or arranging public documents, save a few of purely local value. Take them if offered, and store them.

Do not be too much impressed by the local history plea, and spend precious money on rare volumes or old journals in this line. Save them if they come in, and, as the opportunity offers, interest the antiquarian in them. Material for old local history is almost useless lumber in the active, free public library. This, of course, does not apply to the current exposition of the town's industries and possibilities.

Put no money into rare books. A book which was out of print 10 years or 200 years ago, and has not insisted upon republication since, has no place in the active, free public library. If you get it, sell it and buy a live book.

The free public library should encourage its readers to suggest books not in the library, by providing blanks for that purpose, and paying courteous attention to all requests.

Ask by letter, by circulars, and by notes in the local papers, for gifts of books, money, and periodicals. Acknowledge every gift. Remember that one who has helped the library, be it ever so little, is thereby still more interested in it, and becomes its friend.

In cutting a book with a paper-knife, hold the knife as nearly parallel to the edge of the book as possible so as to avoid tearing the paper. Rub down the cut edges with fine sandpaper, thus removing all unnecessary roughness. This will prevent dust from accumulating in the ragged edges where it can not readily be removed. Books with soiled edges can be greatly improved by the use of sandpaper.—L. N. no. 15.

American Library Association

The American Library Association, or the A. L. A., as it is known among all librarians, is an association of about 500 of the most progressive librarians of the United States and Canada.

Its purposes are the promotion of library interests, the interchange of experience and opinion, the lessening of labor and expense in library administration, and the advancement of the profession of librarianship.

The membership fee of the association is \$2 a year. Membership is open to any person connected with library administration, whether as trustee, librarian, assistant, or in any other capacity. Any other persons interested may be admitted by vote of the executive board. Every librarian who wishes to keep abreast of his profession, who needs inspiration toward progress or help in difficulties, should certainly identify himself with this representative national body. Any person wishing to join should write to the acting treasurer, E. H. Anderson, librarian of Carnegie library, Pittsburg, Pa.

The official organ of the association is the *Library Journal*, a monthly publication, \$5 per year, to which every library will find it wisdom and true economy in the end to subscribe.

A conference is held each year, at which, in set papers and through formal and informal discussion, matters pertaining to librarians and library economy are considered. The proceedings at these conferences are printed in full and distributed free to all members. Liberal reductions in hotel and traveling rates are made to members attending the annual meetings. The meeting this year will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, September 1-4, 1896.

Cleveland Meeting--The preliminary program will be published in our next issue.

A reduction in railway rates to a fare and a third for the round trip is assured, and an effort will be made to secure still greater concessions.

A paper by R. G. Thwaites on the points of historic interest on the post-conference trip will be sent to members with the final program in July.

Miss L. E. Stearns, of the Milwaukee public library, will present a paper on advertising a library.

Mary S. Cutler, of the N. Y. State library, chairman of the committee on the supplement to the A. L. A. catalog, is making good progress with the work. The lists are promised for distribution with the other conference papers.

The discussion of a selected list of books from the new supplement to the A. L. A. catalog will take up an entire session of the conference. The committee will defend their selection, and give their reasons for excluding others.

George Iles, of New York, will speak at the conference on the subject of evaluation and annotated book lists.

Great interest is being shown in the joint session of the Trustees' section with the A. L. A. Already many prominent trustees have signified their intention to be present.

Local arrangements are progressing very satisfactorily. The Hollenden will probably be chosen as headquarters. Mr Brett, assisted by Miss Mildred Wood and a local committee, has all these matters in charge.

One session is to be given up to questions of beginners, directed to leading members, who will illustrate all points questioned as clearly as possible.

The postconference party will leave Cleveland at midnight, September 4, arriving in Detroit next morning for breakfast. They will be given a ride to view the city by the Detroit people, with lunch at the casino in the park. At 3 p. m. Saturday they will leave by boat for Grande Pointe club house in St Clair Flats, where a dinner will be given them by the club, with entertainment till the arrival of the boat for Mackinac.

Library Meetings

Illinois—The prevalent feeling among librarians of Illinois that there was no good reason why their state should be the only one in the northwest having no state association, reached the point in January where definite action was taken. In response to a circular sent out by the Chicago library club, about 40 librarians, trustees, and others interested, met in the capitol at Springfield, January 23, 1896, and formed the Illinois state library association. The example of so many similar associations, and also the presence in the state of a number of the foremost librarians, led to an immediate and satisfactory organization. Three interesting sessions were held, of which the two main discussions were on the appointment of a state library commission, and provision for a bureau of information on library matters. The report on the first favored a state library commission, and recommended that each librarian interest his senator and representative in the general assembly in its formation, and that the executive board of the association should bring the matter before the legislature at its session in January, 1897.

The bureau of information was put into the hands of Miss Sharp, of Armour Institute of Technology, to develop as circumstances may dictate for one year.

G. B. Melaney, of the Library Bureau, put at the disposal of the association his data about libraries in Illinois. A question box was one of the features of the meeting that brought out a helpful exchange of ideas on small details of library administration. A college section, with a good membership of those engaged in college work, was formed, with P. F. Bicknell, of University of Illinois, president, and Miss A. V. Milner, of Illinois State normal school, Normal, secretary.

The State association elected the following officers: President, Thomas Nelson, public library, East St. Louis; vice-presidents, Miss S. T. Hinrichsen,

Illinois state library, and E. S. Wilcox, public library, Peoria; Secretary, Evva L. Moore, Withers public library, Bloomington; treasurer, P. F. Bicknell, University of Illinois, Champaign. The organization of this association marks an era in library matters in Illinois, and the large number of trustees, school officials, librarians and others actively interested, will soon place the state in the front ranks of progressive library work.

One of the pleasant features of the meeting was the informal reception, given to the visiting members by Miss Hinrichsen in the state library.

Maine library association—Met at Augusta, March 12, reorganized and took up its work again with renewed vigor. There was a good attendance and much interest. Prof. G. T. Little, librarian of Bowdoin College, gave an excellent paper on the selection of books for public libraries. He spoke of three difficulties: 1) To decide wisely and fairly how far any library should go in furnishing entertainment, distinct from instructive reading; 2) To avoid immoral books, when we have all grades of opinion, from Dr John Todd on one hand, who would rule out Walter Scott, down to the loudest advocate of art for art's sake; 3) To ascertain which, among a half dozen new books on a subject of general interest, is best for the library when all cannot be had. These difficulties may be met partly, by having a definite plan of growth for the library, and considering in it the wants and needs of the community. Buying must not be haphazard. Papers were also read by Miss H. C. Fernald, librarian of the State college, and Prof. E. W. Hall, librarian of Colby university.

Officers were elected for 1896: President, E. W. Hall; vice-presidents, Mrs M. H. Currin and Miss A. C. Furbish; secretary, Miss H. C. Fernald, Orono; treasurer, Prof. G. T. Little.

The Wisconsin state library association—Met at Racine, March 12-13. All arrangements to make a successful meet-

ing were carefully attended to, and to many present, familiar with the sessions of the A. L. A., it seemed like an annual conference of that distinguished body. The meeting was in the Hotel Racine, beautifully situated near the shore of Lake Michigan. The presence of J. N. Larned, K. L. Sharp, Theresa West, R. G. Thwaites, H. L. Elmendorf, L. E. Stearns, F. W. Faxon, A. C. Hopkins, Dr G. E. Wire, and other faces familiar at the gatherings of the A. L. A., still further indicated more than a state meeting. But the prompt and effective way in which matters began to move soon gave a Wisconsin flavor. At the opening session on Thursday, at 2:30 P. M., 100 were present. After a welcome from the president, F. A. Hutchins of Baraboo, G. W. Johnston, of Kenosha, spoke on How to arouse interest in the library movement. He told of the different methods employed in his own place, of meetings, notices in newspapers, library parties, entertainments, talks in the schools, sermons, and persuasive talks with people of means. When one man of wealth set an example in giving \$1,000, there was little more trouble in getting all the help needed. The Daughters of the American Revolution gave an entertainment and with the proceeds bought Americana for the library. He advised against any attempt at coercion, but advised persuasion even under discouraging circumstances.

The next part of the program was pronounced by many, the most helpful exercise that they had heard at any library meeting. The senior class in library science of Armour Institute, Chicago, under direction of Miss Katharine L. Sharp, gave the history of a book from the time of looking through reviews to find what is in the trade, through ordering, buying, accessioning, classifying, cataloging, loaning, binding and repairing. Each subject was dealt with, by a different member of the class, in a clear, practical way, every point being illustrated by samples. There was much personal inquiry afterwards, and great satisfac-

tion expressed with the exercise. The papers on each subject will appear in later numbers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

In the Relation of the bookseller to the librarian, A. Burtch, library department, A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, showed that much of the delay and annoyance in ordering books would be avoided by attention to simple details, and suggested some very helpful rules. Mr Burtch has promised a paper on the subject for an early number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Mr G. B. Meleney followed in a discussion of the Relation of the Library Bureau to the libraries, which is printed in full on another page.

In the evening the association was favored, through the courtesy of the Wisconsin Library Commission, with an address by J. N. Larned, superintendent of the Buffalo public library. He spoke on the Mission and missionaries of books. He held "that for the most part the lifting of the human race into the condition and character called civilization, has been wrought by individual energies, acting on simply selfish lines. Within certain limits there is no discredit to human nature in the fact. Benevolence springs from nobler sources. Out of this spirit came the free public library. At first the books waited for readers to press their way toward them, and the librarian waited for inquiries to seek them. No one thought of outspreading the books of a library like a merchant's wares, to win the public eye to them. So public libraries, for a time, wrought no great good for education. But this state of passive existence has no longer duration. Soon the missionary passion began to stir here and there in the library field. The inspiration of their calling began to burn in men's hearts. The new spirit, like a beneficent epidemic, spread through all English lands and is making its way slowly into other parts of the world. The possibilities of cooperation are just beginning to be realized, and great tasks accomplished by library associations of today, will probably look small when

compared with undertakings to come hereafter."

Mr Larned, in speaking of Milwaukee public library, said it was easily first in the country in awakening interest in public schools, in the work in which it is engaged.

The morning session on Friday, March 13, opened with an address by Miss West, public librarian of Milwaukee, on the Relation of the trustee to the librarian and library. It was plain, practical, and to the point. She said: "Place the responsibility of effective library work on the librarian, grant him liberty, and then exact results. Librarians should avail themselves of the services of the trustees in dealing with the community as a whole. The political affairs of the library, its dealings with the town officers, should be the care of the trustees entirely. Whenever such duties are imposed upon a librarian, it interferes with his usefulness and is far from being an ideal state of affairs."

Miss Katharine L. Sharp, who was director of the summer school of library science at Madison last summer, made a report of the work accomplished, and outlined a course that would be helpful, despite the short time allotted to the work. Miss Stearns announced that Senator J. H. Stout would repeat his generosity of last summer, and would bear all expenses of a six weeks' course at Madison next summer. The announcement was received with the greatest enthusiasm, and the expressions of gratitude toward Senator Stout showed how deeply his efforts in library matters are appreciated.

H. L. Elmendorf, secretary of the American Library Association, spoke in behalf of the Cleveland conference, urging all present, specially those who have never attended the meetings, to go to the conference in September. He spoke of the objects and scope of the meetings, and the great gain to be obtained from them. He said arrangements had been made for a session devoted to beginners in the profession when they might question the

older members as far as they chose. He urged trustees of libraries, especially, to attend.

F. A. Hutchins, of Baraboo, then gave an account of his trip through the rural districts in the interest of traveling libraries. He found, everywhere, people waiting and anxious to carry out the plans suggested by Senator Stout.

Dr E. A. Birge, of University of Wisconsin, spoke of the value of traveling libraries in the work of university extension.

R. G. Thwaites urged the librarians of free public libraries to give some attention to the collection of local history in the shape of newspapers, historical pamphlets, and what might be called a community's floating literature. Years give such a collection a great value in a social and economic sense. He urged that the library provide for more than the present amusement and advantage.

A discussion followed of the questions:

How may city libraries be made helpful to surrounding districts?

Shall school libraries include books for the general public?

Much good for the library movement was accomplished by this meeting of the Wisconsin association, and the state is in the lead in library matters in the northwest.

The officers elected for the ensuing year are: president, F. A. Hutchins, Baraboo; vice-president, Miss Louise Sutermeister, Eau Claire; secretary and treasurer, Miss L. E. Stearns, Milwaukee.

N. E. A.—The formation of a school library section of the National educational association will be strongly advocated at the Buffalo meeting next July. School libraries are important factors in educational work. One of the most valuable equipments one can give young people for work in life is such a knowledge of books as will enable them to go direct to sources of correct information and sound opinion. A collection of books in every schoolroom, for

everyday use, is coming to be considered an essential part of a school equipment. These books are used to introduce children to the best literature of the world, to interest them in other phases of any subject they may be studying than those they find in their text-books; to arouse in them a love of reading; to awaken and inspire the teacher and make it necessary for her to go outside of text-book work if she would keep up with her pupils, and to promote the beginning of that laboratory method which is now considered so essential in all educational work.

The public library can with great difficulty guide the reading of the children who make use of it. Only in exceptional cases can it do this at all. Perhaps the solution of the question of how to keep a sufficient hold on the books children read, to insure the least possible misdirection of effort and the least possible harm from ill-adapted books, will be the placing in every schoolroom a small collection of books adapted to the children in that room, to be lent for home use by the teacher, and always under her guidance and supervision.

Every librarian who has friends in the National educational association is urged to call their attention to the advantages of a school library section, in which may be discussed the many important questions of libraries and schools, school libraries, and the right use of books. Copies of a petition to the directors of the National educational association, asking that this school library section be established, can be obtained on application to J. C. Dana, Public Library, Denver. The section will probably hold a "Round table" meeting at Buffalo.

California—The central California library association held its regular monthly meeting on March 13, at the San Francisco Mercantile library, President Rowell, of the State University library, presiding. Prominent San Francisco teachers took part in discussing the relation of the library to the public

school, advocating that the greatest usefulness of both institutions is to be reached through coöperation.

Chicago—The last session for the year of the library club was held in the rooms of the Library Bureau. In the absence of the president, Miss Katharine L. Sharp, vice-president, had charge of the meeting. The paper of the evening was read by W. S. Merrill of Newberry library, on Library associations, their need and benefits. The benefits are mutual acquaintance, discussion of methods, and solution of common difficulties. He said there is a need of a better acquaintance with bibliography on the part of attendants, and a more systematic consideration of the subject by library associations. Bibliography is overshadowed unduly by the mechanical side of library administration. The following were elected officers for 1896-97: President, A. H. Hopkins, John Crerar library; vice-presidents, A. J. Rudolph, Newberry library, and Mrs. Z. A. Dixon, University of Chicago; secretary, May L. Bennett, Armour Institute; treasurer, W. W. Bishop, Garrett Biblical Institute.

Colorado—The library association, Charles R. Dudley, city librarian, Denver, president, has held several interesting meetings this winter. Some of the topics discussed have been Schoolroom libraries, and Outside reading during the high school course. A committee is taking up the subject of a state library commission, and hopes to secure the legislation necessary at the next session of the legislature.

New Hampshire—The library association will hold its next meeting at Claremont in July. A paper will be read by some prominent New England librarian outside of the state. Among other questions which will be discussed is the loaning of books between the different libraries of the state. The association will also consider the advisability of so reorganizing that it will become an advisory board to the libraries throughout the state.

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Library Bureau - - - - - Publishers

M. E. AHERN - - - - - Editor

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THE kindly spirit shown by those to whom the project of PUBLIC LIBRARIES has been mentioned, inspires us to put forth our best efforts to meet the approval so generously bestowed. We have in mind but the one object, of being helpful to those who need help. We are assured of the best material to do this if we can get a hearing with those for whom it is intended. We hope to enter every library in the country, and we ask the support of every member of its staff in gaining a wide circulation. In this there is no desire to occupy the field of any other publication, but to work cordially with all, in an effort to make library work tell for good in every community.

It is 20 years since the Bureau of Education published that notable book, now out of print, Public libraries in the United States, made up of contributions from library men and women of this country, covering all aspects of library work. A recent examination of this book, and of some of the early numbers of the *Library Journal*, and a comparison of the same with the recently revised papers of the Library Congress of 1893, give a very high

opinion of the strong grasp of the situation had by the librarian of twenty years ago. The papers of the A. L. A. World's fair meeting of 1893 are full of wise things, and show a distinct advance in methods over those in vogue in 1876. In the main, however, one finds that the good things were said by the wise men, the fathers and mothers in our calling, two decades since. One might ask, then, if it is worth while to start in Chicago or elsewhere, a periodical devoted to the elements of librarianship. All the good things have been said, they are all in print, and those who wish can find them. But a good thing will bear saying more than once; and, farther, a novice is very slow in getting at the literature of his subject. Any one at all familiar with the trials and struggles of the small libraries throughout the country, and specially throughout the west, knows well how handicapped are the people who are attempting to manage them, both by lack of library helps and of familiarity with library methods.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES will try to supply these needs. It will say the old things over, when possible, in a new way; it will bring the old truths home to the new libraries.

LIBRARY trustees can not get as much efficient help for their institutions in any other way as by subscribing for a number of copies of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, to be taken home and read by their library force. An investment in 10 subscriptions for the library will bring 10 times its value in enthusiasm and interest. Try it and see.

THE opening of a new library; the erection of a library building; the adoption, of modern library methods by an old library; the change in attitude toward his library on the part of any librarian, from thinking of it as a storehouse to thinking of it as a workshop, a laboratory, a people's school—each one of these things helps the librarian. The librarians who have established this new journal have no thoughts of entering into competition with any jour-

nal already in the field. They believe that the work PUBLIC LIBRARIES will do will supplement that of other library journals, add to their circulation and increase their efficiency. The wide-awake, successful, experienced librarian will, at any cost, procure knowledge of all advances in the library world. He will always keep himself in touch with the newest things in his profession. * The new comer in the library field, presiding over a small collection of books, in a small community, may well be excused if he does not at once take steps to inform himself of the condition of library work elsewhere. The few hundred men and women who have made the library profession what it is, whose names are on the roll of the American Library Association, and of that journal which is and always has been the first and best in its field, need little attention from the library missionary. The rank and file, the several thousand young and comparatively inexperienced people, who, most commonly, under great difficulties, are attempting to make something of the collection of books of which they have charge, these are the ones the promoters of PUBLIC LIBRARIES think it worth while to reach, and hope to reach. They desire to tell them, not so much how a library should be managed, as where they can get those printed aids which will help them to decide on what is suited to each particular case.

MUCH work has been done by the pioneers in the library world in their earlier day, which in their present degree of progress has passed out of their memory. Many of the same problems which caused them to discuss ways and means for solution are today, in the small libraries, confronting the new librarians with the same amount of perplexity. If these latter will frankly state their difficulties, or ask for suggestions through PUBLIC LIBRARIES, they will be met with ready response from those qualified to speak on various library topics.

It will be very helpful for libraries, as well as the schools, if the library section of the National educational association is organized. It is hoped that librarians everywhere will add their influence to the movement, and assist in its accomplishment. Its scope is outlined in another column.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES has only in mind to be helpful to the libraries which either are yet too small or too limited in funds, to avail themselves of the larger advantages or more expensive means of coming in touch with the large library centers. In addition, we hope to let the members of each library association know what others are doing, and to bring into the libraries the good feeling and *esprit de corps* which so remarkably pervades every meeting of librarians with the modern spirit.

THE Executive Board of the American Library Association is leaving nothing undone that will in any way add to the success of the Cleveland meeting. The time of year selected, and the situation of Cleveland, are in themselves advantages toward making a large attendance. The post-conference trip promises a most delightful outing, and every librarian will do better work for taking advantage of it. The several new departures in the program will add much to the interest of the sessions, and no one in any department of library work will be left unprovided for, from presidents of library boards to pages.

EVERY reader is invited to send suggestions or criticisms on the text of the Library Primer as it appears from time to time. When finished and approved by the Council, the Primer is to be the authoritative statement of the American Library Association, in simplest form, in regard to the subjects treated.

ANY new plan of work for elevating the library spirit in one community may help someone in another. We invite you to tell of it through PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

*Relation of Library Bureau to the Libraries

Geo. B. Meleney, Ch. Mgr.

The consideration of the relations of the Library Bureau to the libraries brings us back to the organization of the American Library Association in 1876. At this gathering of the prominent librarians of the country, the discussion of methods brought out the lack of unanimity in, and the need of coöperation for, a uniform system in the various branches of library work. To carry out uniform methods requires uniform material, and this was hard to obtain. The American Library Association as such, of course, could not take up a business venture of this kind, but it was decided to advise an organization for keeping on sale such supplies and library aids as the association might determine.

The Library Bureau was then organized for this purpose, and has continued to keep the same relation toward the library association as was originally intended. Referring to the numbers of the Library Bureau catalogs, one may trace the history of the development not only of the appliances furnished by the Library Bureau, but also of ideas of library economy as they are gathered there from every source. It confined its attention at first to libraries only, the business being divided into four departments: employment, to bring together libraries and librarians; consultation, to give expert advice on any phase of any library question; publication, to publish the various needed helps (from point of usefulness to libraries rather than profit to publishers); supply, to furnish at lower prices all articles recommended by the A. L. A., and to equip any library with best known devices in everything needful. Among the things noticed in these departments are catalog cards, cases, trays, and out-fits, book supports, blanks, book pockets, boxes, desks, inks, etc. Some specialties are noted in library devices, and

helpful advice as to their economical use is given. The successive catalogs follow the same line, attention being directed toward all improvements in old material, and to all advanced work in library administration wherever found. Not all the material recommended was manufactured by the Library Bureau, but a generous spirit is shown in recommending any device, plan, or publication known to be helpful to the library profession. From the first it has brought to notice the contributions to library literature, such as the Author table, by C. A. Cutter, of the Boston Athenæum; Decimal classification and relative index and library notes, by Melvil Dewey; *Library Journal*, Library school rules, Perkins' manual, Linderfelt's rules, Sargent's Reading for the young, Lists of books for different clubs, Subject headings of A. L. A., etc., the Library Bureau catalog itself being one of the best library aids ever published. These catalogs have always been sent free to library workers.

The libraries grew in numbers and size largely because of the enthusiasm of earnest workers, but very frequently with hardly enough financial-assistance to warrant more than the purchase of a few books, and frequently more limited knowledge of how to make the small store of use to the waiting public. The management of the Library Bureau at this time was certainly doing a missionary work, but its chief problem was the financial one, or how to make both ends meet, and it was not until library methods were introduced into business houses that this question was solved. The constant and untiring efforts of the management of the Library Bureau toward the assistance and upbuilding of the smaller and younger libraries have had much to do with the growth of library sentiment, which is now so apparent on every hand, and indirectly this knowledge of library work and library methods has done much to enlarge the facilities of the Library Bureau.

From a very unpretentious concern, publishing a few library aids, manufac-

* An address before the Wisconsin Library Association, March 13, 1896.

turing such library devices as could not be obtained elsewhere, and keeping for sale a few articles of library furnishing, the Library Bureau has grown to be a corporation of no small proportions, having numerous branches both in this country and Europe, maintaining a card factory with a capacity of 500,000 cards a day, cabinet works in Boston and Chicago, and facilities for the manufacture of steel stacks unexcelled in this country.

The Library Bureau, however, has never forgotten the cause of its birth or the teachings of its youth, as is clearly evidenced from year to year by the various undertakings and publications which a careful observer can clearly see are not put forward with any presage of success when viewed entirely from a business standpoint. This lesson is constantly taught to the employes of the Library Bureau, and they are positively instructed that, regardless of the promise of success in other directions, the attention to library requirements is the first demand.

The Library Bureau maintains at its various offices persons thoroughly equipped in library economy, for the express purpose of furnishing detailed information and aid to those younger members of the profession, whom they have the pleasure and opportunity of assisting over the stumbling-blocks in their daily work. With this same idea in view we are about to publish from the Chicago office a monthly magazine called PUBLIC LIBRARIES, of an elementary character, which we trust to make entertaining, instructive, and inspiring, thus helping to encourage the sentiment already so favorable to the public library and to librarianship as a most honorable profession.

Varnish for maps.—Boil parchment cuttings in water in an earthen vessel till they produce a clear size; strain it and keep till wanted; then give the map two coats of the size, passing the brush over the work quickly so as not to disturb colors.—L. N. no. 15.

Notes by the Way

Technicalities and small matters should not be allowed to repress full sway of enthusiasm and sympathy with the reader.—*Theresa West.*

Keep first-class talent at the loan desk. No amount of system and red tape on the inside will count for much with the public if there is nothing at the loan desk to show for it.—*K. L. Sharp.*

Neither diligence nor expense should be spared in providing good libraries, or houses for books, especially in towns which are able to do such things.—*Luther (1524).*

Don't admit a book into the children's department of your library without careful examination. Scrutinize new authors critically and avoid those whose language and theme have a swager not calculated to raise the standard of a child's imagination.—*L. E. Stearns.*

Attendants in a public library should be self-reliant and courageous without being obtrusive; be flexible in spirit and punctual in attendance. They should discourage purely social calls at the library, and use the time outside the library rationally.—*G. E. Wire.*

Not the books you study, but the books you read for pastime, most influence your character.—*James T. Field.*

By using "inanities" for text-books in reading classes, the public school is responsible for the amount of trash that is read by a multitude of young people.—*C. D. Warner.*

I have forgotten all my mathematics, Latin, Greek, and science, but I still cling to the early muses that fed my childish imagination.—*Barry Cornwall.*

Have various authors on the same subject rather than one person in a six volume edition. Large sets are good for reference books, but don't buy them for the general public to read.—*L. E. Stearns.*

No shelf, in any form of bookcase, should be higher than a person of moderate height can reach without a step-ladder. Shelving for folios and quartos should be provided in every book room.—*C. C. Soule.*

Keep the books for quick reference near the entrance to the room. You will thus help the man who has but a few moments to spare for settling his question, and in so doing make a friend for your library.—*K. L. Sharp.*

To use a domestic figure, the trustees of a library may be compared to the father, the librarian to the mother, and the library to the child. The duties to be performed in each position may be compared along the same lines. Trustees have no right to use the funds entrusted to them for a good purpose to keep a forceless, tactless librarian in place.—*Theresa West.*

Induce study clubs to register their names and objects in the library, find out what material you have suited to their needs, and coöperate with them as far as possible.—*E. G. Browning.*

Pamphlets with stiff paper covers are often received as gifts, and many libraries buy paper-covered novels. Where economy is an object, these covers can be strengthened by another of manila paper, and may then last a long while.—*M. W. Plummer.*

A few helpful books for those starting a library

Library Bureau. Classified illustrated catalog: hand-book of library and office fittings and supplies. Q. Bost. 1896. Library Bureau. Free.

Library journal; official organ of the American Library Assoc'n. *Monthly.* sq. Q. N. Y. Publishers' weekly office. Subs. \$5 a year.

Library notes: Ed. by Melvil Dewey. *Quarterly.* O. Bost. Library Bureau. Subs. \$1 a year.

Green, S.: Swett, ed. Libraries and schools. S. N. Y. 1883. Publishers' weekly office. 50 cents.

Plummer, M. W. Hints to small libraries. O. Brooklyn, 1894. Pratt Institute. 25 cents.

Dana, J. C. Public library hand-book. S. Denver, 1895. Carson-Harper. \$1.

Catalogs, cataloging, etc.

American Library Association. Catalog of A. L. A. library: 5,000 vols. for a popular library, shown at the World's Columbian exposition. O. Wash. 1893. U. S. Bureau of Education. Free.

A. L. A. Subject headings for use in dictionary catalogs. Q. Bost. 1895. Library Bureau. \$2.

***Milwaukee (Wis.) public library.** Systematic catalog (Classified). Q. Milwaukee, 1886. Public library. \$3.50.

***Osterhout Free Library.** Class catalog and author index (Classified). O. Wilkes Barre, Pa., 1889. Osterhout Free Library. \$2.

Wisconsin, State Supt. of Public Instruction. List of books for township libraries: with supplementary list for graded and high school libraries. O. Madison, 1892. State Supt. of Public Instruction.

Cutter, C.: Ammi. Decimal author table. Bost. Library Bureau. \$1.25. —Rules for dictionary catalog. Ed. 3. O. Wash. 1891. U. S. Bureau of Education. (*Pt. 2 of Special report on public libraries.*) Free.

Dewey, Melvil. Decimal classification and relativ index. Ed. 5 O. Bost. 1894. Library Bureau. \$5. —Library school rules: card catalog rules; accession rules; shelf list rules. Q. Bost. 1894. Library Bureau. \$1.25.

Fletcher, W.: I: Public libraries in America. S. Bost. 1894. Roberts Bros. (*Columbian knowledge ser. no. 2.*) \$1.

Nichols, J. Ben. Indexing; a manual for librarians, publishers and authors. O. N. Y. 1892. Publishers' weekly office. 25 cents.

*These catalogs are chosen in preference to others principally because they illustrate the "Decimal" system of classification now so widely adopted.

News from the Library Field

Miss Ida Almy, of the class of 1894, of Department of Library Science of Armour Institute of Technology, has been appointed librarian of Philadelphia Commercial Museums. This institution has recently been established to assist in commercial exchange. The library contains about 600 of the best trade publications from England, France, Germany, and United States, as well as other countries. It also contains many of the latest statistical publications of all countries. This material is to be put in shape for ready reference by the latest library methods, so that those interested in any particular industry can easily find that material which specially refers to his interests.

A. G. S. Josephson, of class of 1894 of N. Y. state library school, late of Lenox library, has been appointed head cataloger at the John Crerar library.

Miss Nancy Baker, head cataloger of Indianapolis public library, has resigned her position, and will be married early in June to Evans Woollen, secretary of the Indianapolis commercial club.

Miss Mary E. Gale has been appointed cataloger of the public library of Evanston, Ill.

Miss Cornelia E. Marvin, of the Armour Institute library, has been engaged since January 1 in reorganizing several libraries in the northwest. She has just finished classifying and cataloging the library in the State normal school at St Cloud, Minn.

Miss Margaret Mann will assist Miss Sharp again in library science, at the summer school, Madison, Wis.

The work of Hon. J. H. Stout, of Menomonie, state senator of Wisconsin, for the advancement of all educational interests of his state, but more specially of libraries, is deserving of the highest commendation. His example

is one which could be followed by many in every state, but which, unfortunately, is a rare instance. It was he who led the movement in the last Wisconsin legislature which resulted in the establishment of the library commission. With his own personal funds he has put in operation in Dunn county a system of traveling libraries. There are 16 of these small libraries, of 30 volumes each. In their stout cases, with all needful equipments, they can be set up anywhere, and managed independently as a complete library. To secure one of these libraries any neighborhood in Dunn county has only to organize and agree to care for the library, and return it in safety. Mr Stout bears all expense of transportation. The organization pays a fee of \$1, but the books are free to all in a given community whether they contribute toward the fee or not. The books remain for a period, and are then exchanged for another set. Last year he defrayed the expense of a four weeks' course in Library Science in the Wisconsin university summer school. This year he will do the same, giving a two weeks' longer term. He is in the front rank of all library movements, and his name is connected with every proposition to advance the cause. Members of the American Library Association will have the pleasure of meeting Mr Stout at Cleveland, as he has promised to attend the September meeting.

J. N. Larned, superintendent of Buffalo public library, visited the Department of Library Science of Armour Institute on Wednesday, March 11. He gave a very interesting and instructive talk to the students of both classes on library methods and appliances, reviewing the history of some things which seem indispensable now in library work. In the evening a reception was given by Miss Sharp, in the library rooms, for Mr Larned, at which the faculty of Armour Institute, Chicago library club, the students and their friends had the pleasure of making the personal acquaintance of Mr Larned.

The library world will find cause for congratulation in the recent decision of the United States courts confirming the claims of Mrs Leland Stanford to her estates. The plans for the library of the university have been at a standstill, pending the decision, but now there is every reason to believe that before long Stanford university will have a library second to few in the country.

A proposition was submitted to the people of St Joseph, Mo., at the April election, to increase the library apportionment from three-tenth mills to one mill, the limit allowed by state law. A majority vote decided in favor of the increase. This will give the library an annual income of \$23,500, and enable the trustees to set aside a certain amount each year for a building.

The general difficulty complained of by so many libraries—lack of room—has been troubling the library at Decatur, Ill., for some time. The larger attendance of students in the reading room made the crowding so great that it has been necessary to limit the working quarters of the library force to accommodate the readers, and separate space has been set apart for the children. Mrs Alice G. Evans, the librarian, is doing a good work for Decatur.

The trustees of the Belfast (Me.) public library have arranged to have the library kept open every day. The salary of Miss Pond, the librarian, was increased, and a leave of absence to look into library administration was granted her.

Ansonia, Conn., is soon to have a public library through the generosity of Miss C. P. Stokes, whose only stipulation is that it shall be properly cared for, and that the town shall share the expense of maintaining it.

An ordinance passed by the council of Seattle, Wash., provides a very liberal policy for the public library, and the regulations governing its use are founded on the latest methods.

The March number of the Des Moines public library bulletin reviews its very satisfactory progress. In January, 1891, it had 7,092v. and about 2,000 public documents. It began the work of January, 1896, with 16,986v. and 3,500 public documents. Within the same period its patronage has more than doubled, its work covering a constantly increasing area.

The people of Helena, Mont., voted increased revenues for the support and enlargement of the public library, in April, to the amount of \$12,000.

The governor of New Jersey, March 16, signed the bill providing that \$300,000 may be expended for building the public library in Newark. The building, it is probable, will be erected on Van Vorst square, if a slight difficulty, in the way of a clear title to the land, can be overcome.

The Milwaukee public library closed its doors Thursday afternoon, March 12, to allow the library staff to attend the meeting of the Wisconsin library association. The entire force went to Racine.

The formal opening of the Bechstein Germanic Library, at the University of Pennsylvania, took place Saturday, March 21. The nucleus of the Bechstein collection consists of the library of the late Prof. R. Bechstein, of Rostock university. The collection has been supplemented till it consists of about 15,000v. and 3,000 pamphlets. It contains standard and critical editions of German writers of all periods, great works of reference, rare old prints, Weimar edition of Goethe, and others equally interesting.

The Shield, of Mansfield, Ohio, March 15, contains an interesting history of the Memorial library founded in 1887. It was organized, incorporated, and is managed entirely by women. It has about 7,000v., and its circulation last year was 30,000v. A close sympathy exists between the library and the public schools. Miss Martha Mercer is librarian.

The Toronto public library board is discussing the wisdom of closing two of its branch libraries, owing to lack of funds. A resolution was passed to discontinue the use of the indicator and convert the four cases into spaces for new books.

Howard library, of Nashville, Tenn., is in a dire struggle for its life, owing to the indifference of the city council. It is to be hoped that the city will not allow the shame of closing such a helpful institution as a public library to rest upon its fair name. An entirely different report comes from Knoxville, Tenn., where a new library has just been opened. It has a vigorous start of 1,000v., and a bright future before it.

The Woman's library association, of Wabash, Ind., have fitted up a well-lighted room, have a library of 1,500 volumes of well-selected books for all classes of readers, and take turns in spending Saturdays in attending to the wants of the patrons. Various entertainments are given to furnish means of carrying on the work, the whole being a labor of love with the women.

Sandusky, Ohio, decided in April to make the public library free. They have a collection of 7,000v. and over \$3,000 in a building fund. The library occupies temporary headquarters in Masonic Temple, but hopes before another year for a new building with all modern appliances. It is in charge of a competent board of women, fully alive to the needs. Mrs Randall E. Shuck is librarian.

Vacancies in the Cleveland public library are filled by competitive examinations, the successful candidates being assigned as vacancies occur. A class of 25 recently took the examination in history, literature, and current events.

Kankakee, Ill., is opening a new public library of 7,000v. The first movement was a gift of a sum sufficient to buy 600v., by generous citizens. Since then there has been a steady growth,

and when fully settled in its new quarters it will be among the first of its size. Dr Geo. E. Wire, formerly of Newberry library, Chicago, is organizing it.

Oshkosh, Wis., public library is growing in favor and usefulness under its librarian, Miss Adaline Olcott. It has recently been reorganized, and is now open to the public in new quarters. About 600v. have been added, the old books assorted, culled, and such as are worth it were rebound. The library contains 3,000v., and a full list of the best periodicals.

The library at Green Bay, Wis., has moved into new and enlarged quarters which, while answering fairly well the present needs, will hardly be adequate long if the library continues to grow at the present rate. The librarian, Miss Anna H. McDonald, reports a large awakening of interest in the library and its work.

The Public library association of Leavenworth, Kan., is now settled in its new quarters. It is well fitted up in furniture and apparatus, and gifts of well-selected books are still coming in. The interest taken in the library by different clubs relieves it of all running expenses, so that the money from fees, etc., is used in buying books.

The class in library science in Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, is approaching the end of its course. The rest of the year will be spent in comparative work, visits for this purpose being made to the libraries in Philadelphia and New York. A series of lectures on the history of books and printing will be given in addition by the president of Drexel Institute.

Iowa has again changed state librarians. Mrs L. C. Creighton, after a term of three years, has been succeeded by Mrs Lana H. Cope, private secretary to Governor Drake.

The library at Galena, Ill., contains 2,600 books. The statistics for March, 1896, show a circulation of 2,682v.

The library at Colorado Springs, Col., has taken a new lease of life and now bids fair to more than double its former usefulness. Subscriptions and gifts of over \$1,200 have been received, and also some very fine paintings which are to be hung in the library rooms. The management is in good hands, and is making a name for the institution.

The San Francisco Free Public Library has adopted civil service in its management, and the first examination of applicants for positions was held on February 15. All those averaging eighty-five per cent. or over were admitted to the final test of two weeks' practical work in the library. Those showing peculiar fitness will be placed upon a reserve list from which all future appointments will be made.

The members of the Danville, Ky., Library Association met March 12, and elected officers to serve for the ensuing year. Miss Laura Downton was chosen librarian.

There has been a decided movement in Boston toward efficient coöperation of the public library with the public schools, and thus to increase the usefulness of each. Under the new plan teachers will be allowed to draw six books at a time and to keep them four weeks. The trustees of the libraries will select such books as pupils will find useful in their studies in history, geography, science, literature, and art. They will be taken from lists suggested by supervisors and teachers. These books are to be set aside for pupils, and when practical, to be sent to the schools. The purpose of this plan is to enable teachers to encourage and guide the pupil's reading. These lists are not to be made up of text-books, but such as may fairly be called literature. The work for the present is to be confined to the grammar grades.

Racine voted a tax for a public library in April. The matter was greatly helped by holding the Wisconsin library association in that city.

It will be a matter of deep regret to many members of the library profession to learn that Miss E. G. Browning, librarian of Indianapolis public library, was displaced April 3. A movement was made before the last general assembly of Indiana, to take the library out of the management of the school board of the city and place it in charge of a separate library board. Miss Browning was known to be in sympathy with the movement, which, unfortunately for her, failed to be effective. In addition to this she had cause, on an occasion of recent insubordination on the part of an attendant, the daughter of a member of the school board, to recommend her dismissal. These things have counted more against Miss Browning with the board than her years of efficient, satisfactory work are credited. The whole press and the pulpits of the city, besides a vast majority of the patrons of the library, condemn the action of the school board in severe terms.

Joseph P. Smith, state librarian of Ohio, has resigned his position. His successor has not yet been appointed.

An excellent help to librarians in selecting the fiction which they wish to place in their libraries, will be found in the monthly lists sent out by the Massachusetts library club. These lists are the work of a committee of 17, who examine and select the books. All books placed on the list have annotations based on the comments of the readers. These lists are for the members primarily, but will be sent to others who subscribe for them, at 25 cents a year.

Mrs Louise Schandean has given Carl Marr's picture, *The Flagellants*, to Milwaukee public library.

Miss Letty Allen, assistant in Pawtucket (R. I.) public library, has been asked to become librarian of the free library at Attleboro.

A bill was passed in the Ohio legislature April 16, authorizing Cleveland to issue \$250,000 worth of bonds for a new public library.

Queries and Answers

[This column is reserved for questions which can be answered in a few words. Those presented this month were selected from a number sent to the Library Bureau. We shall endeavor to answer satisfactorily all questions sent to us.—ED.]

Q. 1. My library is classified by D. C. and Cutters book no. Would the time letters make material more accessible?

A. Not unless there is good reason why latest material should be quickly identified. Recommended sometimes for scientific works.

Q. 2. Would you advise the use of book plates for a small public library?

A. Several sides to this question. If your books have book pockets with name of library on them, or if you stamp the name of your library (advisable) on your books, and label the backs with call numbers, book plates are unnecessary.

Q. 3. How elaborate a charging system would you advise for a library in a town of 3,000, where the patrons are nearly all known to the librarian?

A. The simplest scheme that will answer the necessary questions, Who has a book out? What book is out? When is it due?

Q. 4. Are there classes in library training with shorter courses than one year?

A. One in the summer school at Wisconsin University, Madison, in charge of Miss K. L. Sharp, of Armour institute, July 6 to August 14, and another at Amherst, Mass., taught by W. I. Fletcher, Amherst college librarian.

The original library school carried on by the state of New York at Albany, beginning this year will have regular summer sessions. See announcement elsewhere.

Q. 5. Can I classify my library according to the D. C., and catalog my books on the dictionary plan without making any changes in the D. C.?

A. The D. C. arranges the books on the shelves primarily. There is no need of changes to make a dictionary catalog.

Extracts from Exchanges

The March number of *The Library*, the official organ of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, published by the Library Bureau in London, is the first visitor that reached our exchange table. To one familiar with the workings of the American Library Association and public libraries in this country, there will appear something interestingly curious in the discussions of library matters by our coworkers across the waters; much the same line of thought is followed as with us, and indeed it is plain that they "have an eye" on us in our work. The contents of *The Library* for March are the Public library and public schools, in which the American plan of sending books to the schools fortnightly is mentioned in very complimentary terms; Suggestions for a new form of indicator, with views of several thereon; Miss James expressing herself as an opponent to any form of indicator; "Confiscated libraries in the French revolution;" "How to adopt public libraries' acts in rural parishes;" a review of the Book hunter in London that will probably cause Mr Roberts to wonder for a moment how he shall regard it; "The Public library movement in the United States, a comprehensive article which is continued. Library chronicle; brief notices of libraries in the United Kingdom; an account of the special meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom to revise its constitution, and also an account of the meeting of the Library Assistants' Association.

Pratt Institute monthly announces that during March, in addition to the regular lectures in the course, the following addressed the Library class at Pratt institute: R. R. Bowker, Authorship and copyright; Melvil Dewey, Library legislation in New York; Miss C. M. Hewins, Children's books. During April additional lectures will be given by Miss Elizabeth Tuttle, librarian Long Island historical society, George H. Baker, librarian Columbia college, Silas

H. Berry, librarian Young Men's Christian Association, Brooklyn, and W. T. Peoples, librarian New York mercantile library.

H. E. Scudder has an article in the January *Atlantic monthly*, in which he traces an instructive parallel of comparison between the public school and the public library.

We have also received *Public Occurrent*, Ft. Wayne, Ind. It contains a paper by W. A. Hester, superintendent city schools, Evansville, Ind., on the School side of public libraries. Mr. Hester has given the subject considerable attention and research, and his presentation of it contains many useful thoughts for librarians, teachers, parents, and all who are interested in the welfare of young people. The paper was read before the Indiana library association. *Public Occurrent* has also a list of books placed in Ft. Wayne library, and some good suggestions from the library committee.

The Montana *Educator* for March has a strong paper by J. F. Davies, librarian of Butte City, on "Relations between public libraries and public schools." It contains many things helpful to librarians and teachers.

Arthur Cunningham, Ind. state normal librarian, discusses the library and the school in April number of *Inland Educator*. He calls attention to the laboratory idea of school work, and shows that the success of this method depends on the library.

An editorial in the *Boston Herald* says truly that "the modern library has become a part of our homes, and the men and women who do not take out books and read them are mostly those who have been outstripped in the work of life. How much these libraries mean is to be estimated, however, not by what the older ones read so much as by the suggestion and awakening which books taken from the library impart to the young. When a child begins to take books from a library wisely directed, it is a start which affects the whole life.

New York State Library School

The first summer session of the New York state library school will begin July 7, 1896, and will last five weeks. After the heavy year's work of the regular faculty, they cannot undertake detailed instruction of the summer class. They will however give certain lectures, and will select, for the conduct of the school, graduates who from their library course and experience seem best adapted to this peculiar work. This summer faculty will have every facility of the school and such assistance as is practicable. At the close of the course regents examinations will be given, and certificates stating that the summer course has been completed will be awarded to successful candidates. Students will have free use of the state library, the bibliothecal museum and other collections belonging to the school. Obviously five weeks will allow study only of the simplest methods and most elementary work included in the 80 weeks of the full course, which is hardly long enough for the work. Simple cataloging, classification, accessioning, shelf-listing, loan systems, and elementary work in bibliography and library economy, will be taken up.

As this summer course is given at the urgent request of library assistants who cannot leave their positions for the full course, they will have preference in admission, and there will probably be no vacancies for those without library experience as a basis for the short five weeks' course. As the number of desks is limited, early application should be made. Only those who hold credentials for the completion of a full four-year academic or high school course, or its equivalent, will be admitted. For those engaged in library work in the state of New York, and who meet the requirements for admission, instruction will be provided without charge as part of the work of the public libraries division. To all others the fee will be \$20 for the five weeks' course.

MELVIL DEWEY, *Director*.

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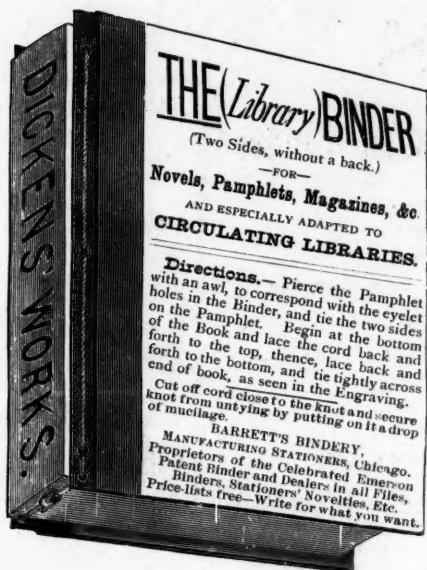
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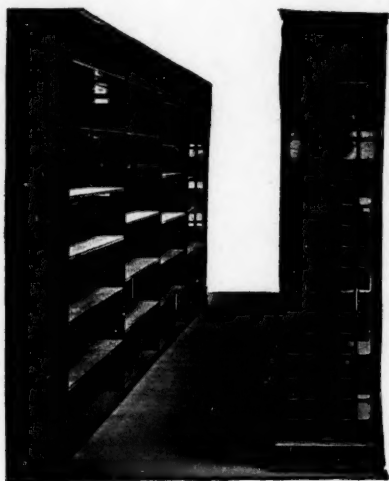
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